

Ronald J. Darling

S/N: 10/708,147

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed February 8, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rudes et al. (USP 5,294,179). The Examiner indicated that claims 3 and 6-9 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 11-28. Applicant appreciates the allowability of claims 11-28.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the prior art. Specifically, claim 1 calls for, in part, an extendable bar pivotally connected to the power actuator. Rudes et al. fails to teach an extendable bar pivotally connected to the power actuator. Rudes et al. teaches that a terminal end of an actuator sleeve "projects into a locking cap 80 having a non-rotatable cross shaft 82 with reinforcing members 84." Col. 5, lns. 9-11. Since the actuator projects into the locking cap and since the cross shaft connected thereto is non-rotatable, the cross shaft is not pivotally connected to the power actuator as called for in claim 1.

Applicant newly presents claims 29-33 herein. Claim 29 presents claim 3 written in independent form, and claim 30 presents claim 6 written in independent form. Claims 31-33 present the subject matter of claims 7-9, respectively, and depend from claim 30.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-33.

A credit card authorization in the amount of \$325.00 is also enclosed for fees associated with entering the claims newly presented herein.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

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Respectfully submitted,



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